

Libertyville, IL - Congressman Mark Kirk joined Lake County Board Chairman Suzi Schmidt and Lake County Director of Transportation and Engineer Marty Buehler opening of the new Lake County Traffic Management Center. The traffic center will reduce traffic gridlock using fiber optics, computers and cameras to control major stop lights in Lake County. The system will now properly adjust stop lights for weather, time-of-day, seasons and accidents.

“To reduce gridlock, we need to widen and expand roads. We also need to manage intersections better using the latest hi-tech equipment. This center will help us to spend less time on the road and more time with our families,” said Kirk. “It will be a model for reducing the traffic congestion that plagues Chicago’s suburbs.”

Kirk secured three million dollars in federal funding for the new traffic center as a member of the Transportation Committee during his first term and made sure it was funded as a current member of the powerful Appropriations Committee. The new traffic center has 150 Lake County signals on-line. Several major intersections also have cameras so engineers can dispatch police and firefighters immediately after an accident occurs. The traffic center will not just reduce gridlock – it will also open “green light corridors” for ambulances to arrive on scene faster.

“Combined with federal funding to open Metra’s North-Central Line, I committed the federal government to over \$150 million for projects designed to reduce Lake County gridlock. We sometimes call Half Day Road “All Day Road.” The Traffic Management is a key part of our plan to speed up traffic and give the time saved back to Lake County families,” said Kirk.

Next a month, the Center will establish a website at www.co.lake.il.us/dot helping commuters to get real time updates on traffic conditions. Next year, the Center will add connections to thirty-one traffic signals and 44 cameras. The Center will also update software based on lessons learned during the first year of operation.

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